

PARENTS BELIEVE
VACCINE KILLED.

Death of Little Etta Thorsden
Has Caused Much
Comment.

DOCTORS EXPLAIN IT.

But Did the Vaccinating Surgeon
Make Unnecessary
Excoriations?

CHILD WAS SAID TO DIE OF CROUP

Taken in Connection with the Death of
Joseph McLaughlin, This Case
Has Given the "Antis" a
Handle for Complaint.

The death of two-year-old Etta Thorsden on Monday night, closely following the child's vaccination, occasioned something of a stir among the officials of the Board of Health yesterday, owing to the fact that the father insisted to the Board that the child had died as a result of the administration of the virus, and because he was apparently supported in this belief by Dr. H. Peffer, of No. 102 West Twenty-eighth street.

The death of thirteen-months-old Joseph J. McLaughlin Tuesday morning had thoroughly alarmed the health officers, for there were many symptoms which seemed to denote that he had died as a result of inoculation of vaccine. Both deaths were thoroughly investigated yesterday, and Dr. Benedict, superintendent of the Bureau of Contagious Diseases, announced last night that he had no doubt in his own mind that Etta Thorsden died of membranous croup, and that Joseph McLaughlin died of peripneumonia.

Notwithstanding this official statement it must be admitted that the deaths of both children were unusual, and it cannot be denied that the deaths, following so closely on vaccination, have alarmed many parents throughout the city. That this alarm is uncalled for the Board of Health strenuously maintains. Dr. Cyrus Edson says, however, that vaccine poisoning sometimes causes peripneumonia.

The case of Etta Thorsden is of a peculiar nature. She was visited ten days ago by a physician of the Board of Health whose name her parents do not recall and which Dr. Benedict will not divulge for reasons he does not explain. The child was barely two years old, and lived at No. 522 East Sixty-third street. Her father is a truckman. Etta has been feeble from birth; so feeble, in fact, that for nearly a year past she regularly took cod liver oil at the advice of Dr. Peffer. The physician of the Board of Health was aware of her physical weakness, so the used child's mother, I think, but insisted upon vaccinating her.

Three Excoriations Made.
According to the parents this nameless physician bared the little girl's arm and with a needle made three excoriations of the tender skin. These excoriations were small and were so placed that the wounds formed what might be likened to a triangle. He then took from his pocket a small tube of quills, and with another quill supplied the virus to the wounds. Mrs. Thorsden says that she was astonished to see that he made three incisions and removed the virus, and that more than one incision was customary in the country of Europe.

What the Doctor Found.

The next morning she was much worse, and that same evening she died. It was then that Dr. Chase examined her arm. "I found a somewhat peculiar condition to exist," he said last night. "The dead body was not discolored, but the little grove was pulled down from the shoulder, and I saw two holes, each as big around almost as an old-fashioned three-cent piece. There was no swelling visible, nor the slightest trace of inflammation after death. The holes were perhaps one-tenth of an inch deep, and looked as if they might have been made by a leather punch. There were no symptoms of peripneumonia or erythema multiforme. Therefore I came to the conclusion that the child had died



RUSH OF MOTHERS TO HAVE CHILDREN VACCINATED AT THE HEADQUARTERS.

of membranous croup, and so made out a death certificate to that effect. I have no doubt whatever but that this was the direct cause of death, although I will not say that the effect of the virus in the veins did not tend to weaken her, and make her incapable of standing the shock of the disease which subsequently attacked her."

Dr. Peffer was disposed to be non-committal. "The child may have died from septicemia, as a result of the virus, or she may not. I do not care to set my opinion as against that of the Board of Health," was all that he would say.

President Wilson stated last night that

he had made as careful an investigation as was possible after death, and that he was convinced that Etta died as a result of croup. "The vaccination may have weakened her, but it certainly did not cause death. There were no symptoms, so far as I can see, which would lead to any other conclusion. There is absolutely no occasion for alarm on the part of parents, and I wish the Journal would make this perfectly clear."

An investigation was also made yesterday into the death of the little McLaughlin boy, and Dr. Benedict reported that death resulted from peripneumonia. "That is a systemic disease," said he, "and that the child died from it is certain. For instance, look at this medical dictionary and read the description of the symptoms. 'Purpura hemorrhagica,' read the volume, 'is denoted by spots which are dusky, and of different sizes. They are often in stripes or patches. Irregularly scattered over the face, arms and trunk, with occasional hemorrhages from the mouth, nostrils and viscera, and great debility and depression of spirits.' Now, this description corresponds exactly with those described by the Journal as marking the case of the McLaughlin boy. I do not think that the vaccination had anything to do with it. As for the death of the Thorsden child, she died of the croup, and of that I am certain. Criticism has been made because the skin was scabbed, but the virus is injected in three different places. Why that amounts to nothing. In Italy, for instance, it is customary to make ten incisions; five on each arm."

Despite Dr. Benedict's assurance in relation to the McLaughlin case, Dr. Cyrus Edson, a very eminent authority on contagious diseases, said yesterday that peripneumonia often resulted after vaccination, but that it was not because the virus was impure. "I added that this disease was never fatal unless there was some anatomic condition of the blood or some inherited hidden cause which caused fatality," he said. "But, in an certain that there is no cause for alarm for it is not once in many thousands times that any fatality results."



ETTA THORSDEN, WHOSE DEATH HAS CAUSED A VACCINATION ALARM.

This two-year-old child, who had been feeble from birth, was vaccinated ten days ago by a physician from the office of the Board of Health. He made three excoriations of the skin, to each of which he applied virus. A few days later the arm had swollen to twice its natural size. Sunday last Dr. Chase, of East Fifty-third street, was asked by the parish visitor of St. Thomas's Church to attend the child. He did so and found no swelling of the arm. He diagnosed the complaint as membranous croup. The child died the next day, and after death the doctor was surprised to note the appearance of the arm. There was no inflammation, but at each place where the virus had been applied was a hole as large as an old-fashioned three-cent piece. Each was about one-tenth of an inch in depth "and looked," said Dr. Chase, "as if they had been made by a leather punch." He named membranous croup as the cause of death, but admits that the working of virus in the veins may have so weakened the child that her system could not stand the shock of the disease which subsequently attacked her.

Pitiful Scene of Overcrowding.
In the pouring rain of yesterday over one thousand women bearing in their arms one or more children, called to the Criminal Court Building and patiently waited that their children might be vaccinated at the expense of the city. The scene presented was not an unusual one to be witnessed in a great city like New York. There are no accommodations for these poor people whom the law declares shall have their children vaccinated at the expense of the city. The operating rooms are on the ground floor and are so crowded all day long that the women and children are obliged to wait for hours. Yesterday, many suffered from exposure. Hundreds were compelled to wait from early forenoon until nearly midnight before they could receive attention.

Dr. Benedict says, however: "All this could be avoided if the people would only obey our orders. I have issued instructions that the doctors would call at residences and vaccinate children if the parents would only drop us a line. This they fail to do, but much can be done. As a result we are overcrowded, and people complain of long and tiresome waits. Perhaps an announcement through the Journal that we will send physicians to homes may keep some of the people from rushing here. We have neither the facilities nor the attendants here to attend to all who apply for treatment."

Anti-Vaccine Society Aroused.
The Anti-Vaccination Society has been aroused to renewed activity by the deaths of the Thorsden and McLaughlin children. The headquarters of this society are at No. 30 Lexington avenue, where the treasurer, Dr. E. B. Foote, makes his home. Dr. L. H. Mehl is the president. The annual meeting of the society will be held in Philadelphia next week, and there is no doubt that these recent New York cases will be made the most of.

Costs \$50 to Horsewhip.
Judge McMahon fines Mrs. Berenice King for Her Assault on William H. Blair.

Mrs. Berenice King, of No. 163 West Twenty-first street, who was convicted before Judge McMahon of assault for horsewhipping William H. Blair, of No. 11 West Eighty-third street, was arraigned for sentence yesterday. She was very nervous and acted as if she was afraid the Judge might not find a sentence to the fine he was overwilling to inflict. The complaint, Blair, was in the court room.

Roosevelt Comes to Day.
The Navy Yard Expectantly Waiting to Receive the Assistant Secretary.

JOURNAL WAGON
AS AMBULANCE.

Took Little Frances Burke
Tenderly to the
Hospital.

DR. RODMAN HAD LEFT HER.

Declined to Care for Her Because
Her Brother Wanted to Go
in the Ambulance.

Frances Burke is the four-year-old daughter of Daniel Burke, a printer, and is a very bright and promising child. She was obedient in all things except one. Contrary to her parents' injunction she would climb on the hall window sill. This window looks out upon a narrow yard, and as the Burkes live on the top floor of a five-story house, the distance to the brick pavement below is a matter of sixty feet.

There is a refrigerator close to the hall window. Little Frances climbed on the sill yesterday for the purpose of opening the lid of the refrigerator. The window was wide open and she lost her balance and fell through it.

Her escape from instant death was marvellous. She first struck a pulley line, which snapped off short. Her body then descended and fell upon a slanting shed, rolled off and landed upon a friendly ladder, which was stretched horizontally across the yard. This ladder had a spring to it, and Frances bounded from it to the brick, three feet under it.

Her head struck first and she was rendered unconscious. She was picked up by Mary Young, a neighbor, who carried her to the sidewalk. Sergeant Kelly, of the City Street Station, which is directly opposite, sent in a call for an ambulance, and one arrived from the Hudson Street Hospital, bearing Dr. Rodman.

Thomas Burke, the twenty-year-old brother of Little Frances, insisted on accompanying his sister to the hospital. "You cannot come," exclaimed Dr. Rodman. "This child is in my charge and it is against the rules for any one except the physician to accompany a patient in an ambulance."

"I insist on going with my sister," said Thomas, who said the surgeon ordered the injured child to be placed in the wagon. Frances was piled into the vehicle and the driver was about to whip up his horse, when Thomas cried out:

"If you take her away without me I will report you to the authorities," Dr. Rodman then ordered the child taken out. He left in the ambulance without her.

LOSES HIS WIFE;
GETS NO MONEY.

Editor Thompson's Suit Dis-
missed on Account of
Public Policy.

WAS A UNIQUE CASE.

No Parallel for It and the Dis-
missal Establishes a
Precedent.

Nyack, N. Y., May 12.—William R. Thompson, the Nyack post-editor, is a loser. First, he lost his sweetheart, then he lost his wife on account of the verse-laden letters he wrote the sweetheart, he lost his children because his wife refused to let him see them; after that he lost possession of the building in which he had his newspaper plant in Nyack, and now he has lost the suit which he brought against George H. Blauvelt, claiming \$50,000 for the alienation of his wife's affections. He has his money left, and if he loses that he will indeed be in a sorry plight.

The suit against Blauvelt was dismissed by Judge Hirschberg to-day when the plaintiff's side rested, and Attorney Teague, for the defendant, was given an opportunity to renew his motion to dismiss. The decision of the Judge was not a surprise to the attorneys for the prosecution, but it was clearly a disappointment to the natives of the county, who, the large majority of them, are in sympathy with Thompson.

No Parallel Case.

To lawyers the dismissal of the suit was of more than ordinary interest, because the case is unique, standing absolutely alone in law. Judge Hirschberg's decision establishes a precedent which, if it survives review by the Appellate Court, will be the accepted rule in such cases. There is no record anywhere of a suit for damages being brought by the unsuccessful defendant in a divorce suit against another man for the alienation of his wife's affections. In this case the other man married the divorced woman shortly after the law freed her.

The prosecution took up nearly all of this morning in presenting its witnesses, who all testified as to the various times Mrs. Thompson and Mr. Blauvelt were together at parties and at the Thompson home. These witnesses were Mrs. Lena Mitchell, Mrs. Mary Hulton, Mrs. Mary Moore, Harry L. Thompson, brother of the plaintiff, and a New York truck dealer, Miss Belcher, a school teacher; Mrs. W. H. Thompson, another of the plaintiff's friends; Mrs. L. Thompson, and Mrs. Agnes Heller. Few of them were cross-examined.

When the prosecution rested Attorney Teague renewed his motion to dismiss on the ground that the plaintiff had failed to prove cause of action or that the defendant had not caused a wife to leave him.

Judge Tompkins contended that there was sufficient cause for action; that the divorce did not bar the suit; that the husband's offense was not condoned by the wife, who lived happily with him afterward until Blauvelt appeared on the scene and won the woman from him.

Dismissal on Principle.

In deciding the motion Judge Hirschberg said he would consider everything the attorney for the plaintiff claimed without his objections. Then he pointed out the unique character of the case, and said that if the plaintiff could show a precedent and the authorities, by which it would appear that there was cause of action, he would hear the defense and then decide. He then came to the jury. Judge Tompkins admitted that he had been unable to find a parallel case anywhere. Thereupon Attorney Teague demanded the case on three grounds, as follows:

"First—The divorce occurred by the wife made the defendant liable for the loss of his affection as a bar to the recovery of damages."

"Second—That the plaintiff assumed no damage at the hands of the defendant as his wife's husband he had forfeited all rights to the custody and society of his wife."

"Third—That the plaintiff's wife, after a husband guilty of violating his marital vows cannot come into court and claim damages against the man who has seduced her, but who, because divorced from him because of his own acts."

Judge Hirschberg explained that he would have dismissed the case on the third ground alone, without reference to the others.

Neither of the principals was in court when the case was dismissed. Mr. Thompson, at the village hotel, took his departure early and said he did not know what his next step would be. Mr. Blauvelt, of course, jubilant, and so was Mrs. Blauvelt, who waited in the hotel parlor for the result.

O'BRIEN'S STATEMENT

He Defends His Action in the Dalton Case
and Gives a Slap at
Byrnes.

Captain Stephen J. O'Brien, Chief of the Detective Bureau, gave out a long statement last evening in relation to his alleged quarrel with District Attorney O'Leary and Assistant District Attorney Lloyd over the postponement of the Dalton case. Captain O'Brien says that the Dalton confession leaked out through an improper source, and intimates that it was Mr. Lloyd who made it public. He also took a long defense of his action in asking for previous delays in the trial, saying that he did so with an understanding with former Assistant District Attorney Vernon M. Davis. The delay was desired so that the Detective Bureau could obtain evidence against Dan Noble. "Big Frank" McCoy and Miller corroborate Dalton's confession, implicating them in the Hildebrand "hold-up," and the Brooklyn robbery. Closing his statement Captain O'Brien pays his respects to the District Attorney's office and to former Superintendent Byrnes in the following language:

"Many police officials can tell of their past experiences when attending the higher courts with witnesses, who, after such attendance from day to day, have made complaint of the non-trial of their cases, and have been met by the remark from Assistant District Attorney O'Leary: 'The Police Department is not running the District Attorney's office.' This is a very ancient, well-known bluff, made to hide the neglect, delay or other improper action on the part of such prosecuting officials, and is generally unheeded for."

"So far as the business transacted at this bureau is concerned, everything is as open as the light of day; nothing is concealed, except when it is deemed proper in the best interests of the public. The results obtained during the last two years have established beyond doubt that there is no need whatever for any improper alliance between the police and the criminal classes in the conduct of its work."

"When mysterious murders or other important crimes are committed in this large community, which must be the case in the course of events, if we have no legal evidence to justify an arrest, we shall not, under any circumstances, furnish a victim to the gallows to satisfy any public curiosity created by the public press. If there is a failure to clear up such crimes it is because the circumstances and the circumstances being beyond human grasp."

Quaker City Pastor for London.
Philadelphia, May 12.—She Rev. J. Wilbur Chapman, D. D., pastor of Bethany Presbyterian Church, of this city, has just received a call to succeed the Rev. George F. Post, D. D., in the pastorate of the Quaker City Presbyterian Church, London, one of the largest and most fashionable churches in the West End.